



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#7
1-31-03
P.2.

Applicant(s): Ramana V. Gollamudi

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING DISTRIBUTED
COMMUNICATION ROUTING

App. No.: 09/352,563

Filed: 07/13/1999

Examiner: Emdadi, Kamran

Group Art Unit: 2664

Atty. Dkt. No. 1400.4100210

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action of 07/17/2002, Applicant submits the following:

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-12, 15-28, and 31-34. The Examiner has objected to claims 13, 14, 29, and 30. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of pending claims 1-34.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7, 15, 16, 19-23, and 31-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Pitcher (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,142). Applicant respectfully disagrees, as set forth in detail below.

Regarding claims 1, 2, 4, and 5, the Examiner states that Pitcher teaches a forwarding engine can use a forwarding table to determine routing information, and the routing information is seen by at least one member of the group as compared to the viewable registration of the group members that are known to the forwarding engine (col. 9, lines 52-62). Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant submits that the cited portion of Pitcher et al. fails to disclose the claimed invention as set forth in claims 1, 2, 4, and 5. Applicant notes that col. 9, lines 52-62, of Pitcher et al. refer to a "forwarding engine" in singular form. Thus, Applicant submits that the cited portion of Pitcher et al fails to